

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 9 and 10 are objected to but submitted as containing allowable subject matter..

Claims 21-23 are objected to for minor informalities. The informalities have been clarified in claims 20 and 21. It is respectfully requested the objection be withdrawn.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 3 has been amended to clarify the features. The claim described one ingress node, however the claim is not limited to one ingress node. No new matter is entered. It is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9, 11-18 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabata (US 2001/0016914) in view of McAllister et al. (6,697,329).

The Tabata reference has a U.S. filing date of February 8, 2001. Applicant's U.S. filing date is March 5, 2001 and claims priority from the Japanese application 2000-60735 filed March 6, 2000.

Enclosed is an English language translation of the priority document from Japanese application 2000-60735 filed March 6, 2000, together with a statement as to the accuracy of the translation. Applicant relies on the priority document in overcoming the Tabata reference.

It is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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